

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 CU-02 SCCT-01 NEA-10 IO-10 EB-07 EA-07

/107 W

----- 111282

R 051410Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4386

INFO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSYADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 8069

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CG, PGOV

SUBJECT: POST COUP ATMOSPHERE: AN ANALYSIS

### 1. BEGIN SUMMARY:

SINCE THE SECOND VANCE MISSION TO ZAIRE, THE OVERTLY ANTI-AMERICAN PRESS COMMENTARY SO EVIDENT IN JUNE HAS ALMOST DISAPPEARED. MOBUTU HAS MOVED HIS PRESS IN A POSITIVE DIRECTION WHILE CONCURRENTLY GIVING THE APPEARANCE THAT HIS REGIME HAS FIRMER POLITICAL CONTROL THAN IT HAD BEFORE THE ALLEGED COUP. END SUMMARY.

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### 2. MOBUTU HAS SOUGHT TO TURN THE UNSETTLING POLITICAL EVENTS

OF JUNE TO HIS ADVANTAGE AND ON SHORT TERM BASIS, HE MUST BE CREDITED WITH SUCCESS. IN A SERIES OF HIGH RISK MOVES, MOBUTU NOT ONLY ARRESTED NUMEROUS SOLDIERS IMPLICATED IN THE COUP, BUT ALSO DISPLACED SEVERAL OLD GENERALS. HE ALLOWED THE PRESS TO ATTACK THE POLITICAL INTEGRITY OF UNNAMED MEMBERS OF BOTH THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND THE POLITICAL BUREAU. HE ALSO REPLACED THE PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME COURT. FOR A WHILE IT SEEMED THAT HE WAS SYSTEMATICALLY ALIENATING MANY OF THE POLITICAL ELEMENTS WHICH HAD SUSTAINED HIS REGIME. MANY OBSERVERS ASKED HOW LONG SUCH BEHAVIOR COULD CONTINUE WITHOUT REPERCUSSIONS FOR THE REGIME. YET THE REGIME STANDS.

3. PERHAPS MOBUTU SENSED HOW CLOSE TO THE BREAKING POINT HE HAD PUSHED THE POLITICAL STRUCTURES, FOR IN A SERIES OF RECENT ANNOUNCEMENTS, MOBUTU HAS SOUGHT TO REMOVE AN ATMOSPHERE OF PRESSURE. (A) SALONGO, THE MUCH DISLIKED REQUIREMENT FOR ALL CITIZENS TO WORK ON PUBLIC PROJECTS SUCH AS STREET CLEANING) ON SATURDAY AFTERNOONS, HAS BEEN MODIFIED ALMOST TO THE POINT OF NON-EXISTENCE. INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED MERELY TO KEEP THEIR PROPERTY CLEAN (B) THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE ONE YEAR CIVIC-MILITARY SERVICE FOR POST SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS, NEVER A TERRIBLY POPULAR IDEA, HAS BEEN DELAYED INDEFINITELY. (C) A DEROGATION TO THE RULE THAT ALL ZAIRIAN SECONDARY STUDENTS MUST STUDY IN ZAIRE HAS BEEN GRANTED TO ZAIRIAN STUDENTS ABROAD IN THEIR FINAL YEAR. (D.) STRICTURES AGAINST NIGHT CLUBS IN KINSHASA HAVE BEEN APPLIED WITH LESSENING CERTAINTY AND DRINKING HOURS HAVE BEEN OFFICIALLY EXPANDED. (E.) THE PRESS HAS COOLED ITS TONE OF POLITICAL SUSPICION AND THERE HAVE BEEN NO RECENT ATTACKS ON THE MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL BUREAU OR NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. (F.) RENTS FOR ZAIRIAN CITIZENS HAVE BEEN CUT IN HALF WHILE SALARIES FOR THE LOWER PAID CIVIL SERVANTS AND SOLDIERS HAVE BEEN RAISED. (G.) COST FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN TO WEAR UNIFORMS STARTING THIS SEPTEMBER, FORMERLY TO BE BORNE BY PARENTS OR PARENTS' EMPLOYERS, WILL BE MET BY THE GOVERNMENT.

4. WHILE RELIEVING SOME OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PRESSURE ON ZAIRIAN CITIZENS WHICH HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY GENERATED BY GOVERNMENTAL ACTION, MOBUTU HAS ALSO WORKED TO POLISH HIS IMAGE AS STATESMAN, CONFIDENTIAL

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AN IMAGE SOMEWHAT TARNISHED BY THE UNLIKELY CHARGES HE HAD MADE IN JUNE AGAINST AN UNNAMED SUPERPOWER. MOBUTU'S CORRECT HANDLING OF AMIN, HIS ASSISTANCE TO GREAT BRITAIN, HIS PERFORMANCE AT THE OAU IN KAMPLA, AND HIS MODERATE STAND ON THE ISRAELI-UN QUESTION LENT HIM CREDIBILITY AS A STATESMAN. THE VISIT OF GISCARD D'ESTAING SEEMED TO CONFIRM HIS STATURE AND CERTAINLY PROVIDED AN IMPRESSIVE SPECTACULAR FOR THE POPULATION OF KINSHASA.

5. MOBUT HAS THUS SUCCEEDED IN COMING OUT OF THE SUMMER TURMIL,  
PUBLICLY MORE INDEPENDENT OF THE U.S. YET SEEMINGLY MORE MODERATE.  
IN THE PRESS, HE HAS MOST RECENTLY REPLACED CHARGES OF U.S.  
COMPLICITY IN ANTI-ZAIRIAN PLOT BY POSITIVE WORDS OF FRIENDSHIP FOR  
THE FRENCH, ARABS AND NORTH KOREANS. THERE HAS BEEN NO MENTION OF U.S  
. AID  
TO ZAIRE, BUT IT IS CLEAR FROM PRESS REFERENCES TO JOINT  
FRENCH ZAIRIN PROJECTS THAT MOBUTU EXPECTS THE WEST TO REMAIN  
ECONOMICALLY INVOLVED IN A SELF ASSERTIVE ZAIRE.  
WALKER

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